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Senator Hardiman's Senate Resolution 7 Aiding Faith-Based Organizations Wins Senate Approval

LANSING-Today, Senator Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood) received bi-partisan support for his faith-based initiative SR 7 (Senate Resolution 7). SR 7 is a resolution expressing support for proposed federal rules permitting faith-based human service organizations to apply for housing and homeless grants through the United States Department of (HUD) Housing and Urban Development.

"I am honored today to have the support of my fellow colleagues from both sides of the aisle, on this pertinent issue dealing with faith-based legislation" Hardiman said. "I look forward to sending SR 7 to the office of the President of the United States and the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development."

President Bush instructed the federal agencies; including HUD to take the necessary steps to ensure the federal policy and programs are fully open to faith-based community groups within the framework of constitutional church and state guidelines. On January 6, 2003, President Bush proposed changes to the federal regulations that eliminate unwarranted barriers to the participation of religious organizations gaining access to grant programs administered by HUD.

Consistent with the President's initiative, SR 7 supports the proposed rule changes in HUD's regulations to remove unwanted barriers to equal participation of faith-based programs in HUD programs. "When the need for services is great, we should make it easier-not harder- for capable groups to step forward to meet the needs of our communities" said Hardiman. "SR 7 is meant to encourage the federal rule changes to increase the likelihood that faith-based groups in every corner of our society can help people in need."

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